

Message Text

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ACTION L-03

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 ISO-00 OES-07 SS-15 SP-02 EB-08
PM-05 INR-10 INRE-00 SSO-00 DLOS-09 /070 W
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FM AMEMBASSY NASSAU
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 842

C O N F I D E N T I A L NASSAU 0874

E.O. 11653: GDS
TAGS: PBOR, BF
SUBJ: MARITIME BOUNDARIES

REF: (A) STATE 091257 (B) NASSAU 0761

1. AMBASSADOR AND DEPARTMENT OFFICER HODGSON MET WITH MINISTER ADDERLEY AND PERMSEC RUSSELL AT 10 AM TODAY ON MARITIME BOUNDARIES ON BLAKE PLATEAU. IN OPENING REMARKS AMBASSADOR THANKED MINISTER ADDERLEY FOR PROVIDING THE MEETING ON SHORT NOTICE.
2. AMBASSADOR REFERRED TO MINISTER ADDERLEY'S PAST CALLS FOR MUTUAL RESTRAINT IN OFFSHORE LEASING AND NOTED EMBASSY HAD URGED THIS POLICY ON DEPARTMENT AND OTHER INTERESTED AGENCIES. AMBASSADOR WAS PLEASED TO ANNOUNCE SECRETARY ANDRUS WOULD ISSUE PRESS RELEASE TOMORROW ON TEMPORARY SUSPENSION OF CALL FOR NOMINATIONS PROCESS FOR DATA GATHERING ON THE OCS (BLAKE PLATEAU AREA NO. 54). AMBASSADOR NOTED U.S. WILLINGNESS TO EXERCISE RESTRAINT AND HOPED ACTION WOULD PRECIPITATE A SIMILAR POLICY ON THE SIDE OF THE GOCB. AMBASSADOR CITED SIMILAR URGING BY MINISTER ADDERLEY DURING SENATOR STONE'S VISIT.
3. AMBASSADOR NOTED USG WILLINGNESS TO ENGAGE IN DISCUSSIONS ON MARITIME BOUNDARY WITH GOCB, TIMEFRAME AT
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DISCRETION OF GOCB. MINISTER ADDERLEY EXPRESSED SATISFACTION AT USG MOVE AND WILLINGNESS TO COMMENCE NEGOTIATION AT THE EARLIEST TIME. DEPARTMENT OFFICER HODGSON SAID HE WOULD CONVEY INFORMATION TO DEPARTMENT. NOTING ONGOING LOS DISCUSSIONS, SUGGESTED NEGOTIATIONS PROBABLY IMPOSSIBLE IN THIS TIMEFRAME. MINISTER ADDERLEY REPLIED END OF CONFERENCE ONLY 2-3 WEEKS

AWAY AND NEGOTIATIONS COULD COMMENCE "3RD OR 4TH WEEK IN MAY OR 1ST OR 2ND WEEK IN JUNE." HE PARENTHETICALLY ADDED "SUBSTANCE OF BASES NEGOTIATIONS COULD BE COMPLETED END OF JUNE." HE FURTHER SAID ISSUE OF MARITIME BOUNDARY "MOST IMPORTANT ISSUE, NOT WITHSTANDING BASES AGREEMENT."

4. ADDERLEY NOTED REGULATIONS AND AMENDMENT OF PETROLEUM ACT PASSED LEGISLATURE LAST WEDNESDAY WOULD COME INTO EFFECT IN A COUPLE OF WEEKS. AMBASSADOR REITERATED NEED FOR MUTUAL RESTRAINT DURING THIS PERIOD BUT MINISTER ADDERLEY DID NOT REPEAT NOT MAKE COMMENT.

5. AMBASSADOR CITED EMBASSY AND USG INTEREST IN INFORMING GOCB BEFORE SECRETARY ANDRUS ANNOUNCEMENT. THIS INTEREST GIVEN AS REASON FOR SHORT TIME PRIOR TO REQUEST FOR APPOINTMENT. MINISTER ADDERLEY REPLIED HE DEDUCED USG PLANS FROM ESSO CONTACT LAST WEEK. ESSO REQUESTED RENEWAL OF LEASE DUE TO EXPIRE END OF JUNE. WHEN ASKED HOW INFORMATION OBTAINED MINISTER ADDERLEY SAID HE LEARNED NOT DIRECTLY BUT INDIRECTLY WITHIN PAST 15 MINUTES. IN CLOSING, MINISTER ADDERLEY NOTED THE ESSO HASTE WAS NOT NECESSARY BUT HE DID NOT IDENTIFY SITE OF LEASE.

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6. EMBASSY REQUESTS DEPARTMENT MOVE PROMPTLY TO ADVISE DATE SUITABLE FOR STARTING NEGOTIATIONS. IMPORTANT TO ACT NOW WHILE GCOB MOOD IS UP. SCHWARTZ

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